

## 60,000 WIVES TAKE WOES TO OLD CITY POLICE COURTS YEARLY SEE PROBERS OF THE EQUITABLE

Magistrate Pool, Favorite of Fair Victims of Domestic Troubles, Gives Figures—Causes of Unhappy Homes.

Magistrate Pool seems to be recognized these days as the friend of deserted wives, and the women have been flocking to the West Side Court to ask his Honor to give redress for non-support, acute loneliness and even to supply a father for borrowed children.

Two dozen or more women come each day with the same grievance, so this morning the front benches were reserved for them and there were no empty seats in the row of the deserted. Magistrate Pool estimates that there are more than 60,000 cases of desertion that come into the seven police courts each year—averaging twenty-five a day in each of the seven courts.

The Magistrate does his part to remedy the wrongs of these in distress. He exacts of the errand husband a weekly stipend for the family's support, and sends offenders who fail to make good to the workhouse. When the marital breach does not seem hopeless, Rudolph Confield, probation officer, takes the case in hand and tries to reconcile the conflicting parties.

Acts as a Peacemaker.

"A little gentle persuasion does much to repair the marriage compact," said Mr. Confield to an Evening World reporter. "If there is a trace left of the original love and affection of the husband and wife, I use all tact to reconcile it. And many a happy reunion comes about."

"It's the liquor that keeps him away," "My husband's too much of a gambler. He doesn't work like an honest man to keep his family," "He says that with a mother like



mine in the house he'd rather live in jail.

"He says my cookin' don't suit, and the Lord knows, I tries."

Occasionally the women stoop to bribery to excite the sympathy of the Magistrate. One woman about thirty years of age appeared in court with

six borrowed children ranging from three to fourteen years of age.

"Think of a man with a fine family like that deserting me and then

bring me here with these children," cried she as she lined the borrowed

brood on the benches and raised the younger ones that his Honor might not miss any. "Ain't it shameful?"

"It certainly is, certainly is my poor

woman," said the Judge. "I hold your husband in bond to pay you \$8 a week. If he doesn't live with me because the old pipes he smokes make me sick."

"Learn to like them, learn to stand the bad smoke if it makes your husband happy. You must humor the little

things that really please him," was the Magistrate's advice.

It is a busy life that of reconciling errant husbands to their wives and bringing peace and prosperity to unhappy households. But Magistrate Pool keeps at it faithfully and so long as he sits in the West Side Court no deserted wife in the district need go undefended.

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